

REMARKS

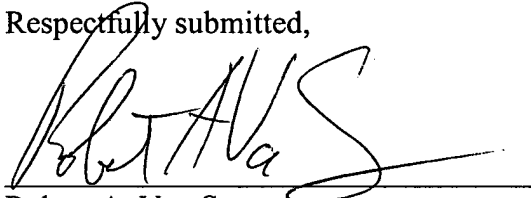
In the Office Action, claims 16-24 were allowed, claims 9-12, 15 and 28 were objected to, claim 13 was previously withdrawn from further consideration, claims 1-8, 14 and 25-27 were rejected. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 16-24 and for indicating the allowability of claims 9-12, 15 and 28. By this Reply and Amendment, claims 1-8 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice, claims 9-13, 15 and 25 have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance, and reinstatement of previously withdrawn claim 13 is requested. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 9-18 and 20-27 will remain pending. All claim amendments are fully supported throughout the specification and figures. No new matter has been added.

Claims 9, 10, 11, 12, 15 and 28 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the language of claim 8 upon which each of these claims was directly dependent. The language of claim 28 has been added to independent claim 25 from which it directly depended. Additionally, the dependency of previously withdrawn claim 13 and of dependent claim 14 has been changed such that these claims depend directly from newly independent claim 11. Accordingly, claims 9-15 and 25-27 should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-8, 14 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as anticipated by the Adamache et al. reference, US patent No.: 4,988,389. This rejection is respectfully traversed, however the rejection is believed no longer applicable in light of the claim amendments set forth above. Specifically, claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice, claim 14 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 11, and the language of allowable claim 28 has been added to independent claim 25.

Accordingly, all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Van Someren', written over a horizontal line.

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